



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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December 23, 2008

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **FLOODING AND MUDSLIDE MITIGATION DUE TO SAYRE FIRE AT OLIVE VIEW - UCLA MEDICAL CENTER**

On November 25, 2008, on motion by Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer, the Interim Director of Health Services, and the Acting Director of Public Works to: 1) File Notices of Exemption in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, for the installation and maintenance of the devices to protect the Medical Center and County Flood Control facilities from the effects caused by the fire; 2) Acquire the necessary permits and design, install, rehabilitate, and maintain measures to protect the Medical Center and County Flood Control facilities from flooding and mudflows that may be as a result from the fire; 3) Assess the fire damage to Pacoima Dam infrastructure and develop a repair plan of action; 4) Coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the State Office of Emergency Services, in order to secure federal and State funds to assist in protecting the Medical Center and County Flood Control facilities and repairing damage to Pacoima Dam from the effects caused by the fires; and 5) Report back to your Board in two weeks on the pact of the rainstorms on the campus and any other actions that will be required to protect the campus during the coming winter rainy season.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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## **NOTICES OF EXEMPTION**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is in the process of preparing Notices of Exemption, which will be filed with the County Clerk, for the installation of various protective devices at the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (OVMC) and the Pacoima Dam. In addition, the appropriate environmental review and documentation will be completed for the permanent repair or replacement of any facilities damaged by the Sayre Fire.

## **INSTALLATION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Immediately following the fire, DPW engineers assisted the Department of Health Services (DHS) staff in reviewing the OVMC campus, and identifying areas where erosion and/or debris control measures were needed. During the week of November 25, 2008 DHS, with assistance from DPW and a DPW job order contractor, implemented a number of temporary measures which were outlined in this Office's December 8, 2008 memorandum addressed to your Board. In addition to these measures, DHS and DPW are preparing to rebuild some existing debris retaining structures which were damaged during the fire. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the next few weeks.

## **PACOIMA DAM STATUS**

Although the area surrounding Pacoima Dam was burned in the fire, and some of the facilities and infrastructure that support the operation of the dam were damaged, the dam itself was not damaged, and is fully functional. Utility service to the dam and the camp area below the dam were damaged. Utility service to the camp has been restored, and temporary utility service to the dam including electricity, telephone service, and dam safety instrumentation has been restored on a temporary basis. Temporary mudflow protection measures including cleaning debris as it accumulates, repairing burned rail and timber structures, installation of k-rails to divert mudflows away from aerial tram station, and maintaining the reservoir debris boom have been designed, and are in the process of being implemented. DPW crews have been clearing mudflows which have impacted the access road, and have been able to maintain access to the facility.

Also, DPW is evaluating and designing permanent repair and restoration measures including: 1) evaluating the feasibility of implementing an emergency reservoir sediment removal project; 2) developing plans and specs to replace the fire damaged hoist which is used to transport heavy equipment and materials to the top of the dam; and 3) evaluating the feasibility of repairing the fire damaged bridge between the camp area and the dam.

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## **STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION**

As outlined in the December 8, 2008 memorandum, federal and State funds will be available to the County for debris removal, emergency protective measures and replacement and/or restoration of structures to pre-disaster conditions. In addition, DPW will coordinate with the NRCS regarding any federal program to re-vegetate the denuded hillsides. However, we understand that the NRCS has diminished the amount of re-vegetation they conduct following wildfires.

## **IMPACT OF RAINSTORMS ON OLIVE VIEW CAMPUS**

The storms that occurred the week of November 25, 2008 resulted in almost no impact on the OVMC campus. The debris and erosion control measures functioned properly and protected the various improvements on the campus. Water was diverted away from the buildings, and the hospital operated normally. Similarly, the most recent rains that began on the evening of December 14, 2008 have had no significant impacts on the campus. The only remaining steps that are planned to protect the campus during this winter season are the repair of the debris retaining structures mentioned above.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Meyer of the Department of Health Services at (213) 240-8370, or David Howard of the Department of Public Works at (626) 300-2300.

WTF:SRH:SAS

MLM:DH:yb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Fire Chief  
Interim Director, Department of Health Services  
Director, Internal Services Department  
Director, Department of Public Works